

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-40 are added. The following is the status of the above-captioned application as amended.

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (New). A secreted polypeptide which has protease activity, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45;
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44;
- (c) comprises a mature part which is a variant of the mature part of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45 comprising a substitution, deletion, extension, and/or insertion of one or more amino acids; or
- (d) is a fragment of (a), (b), (c), or (d).

Claim 22 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which is a wildtype polypeptide, an artificial variant of a wildtype polypeptide said variant having one or more amino-acid(s) added to the C-terminus as compared to the wildtype, a shuffled polypeptide, or a protein-engineered polypeptide.

Claim 23 (New). The polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the one or more added amino acid(s) is (are) non-polar or uncharged.

Claim 24 (New). The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the one or more added amino acid(s) is one or more of Q, S, V, A, or P.

**Claim 25 (New).** The polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the one or more added amino acids are selected from the group consisting of: QSHVQSAP, QSAP, QP, TL, TT, QL, TP, LP, TI, IQ, QP, PI, LT, TQ, IT, QQ, and PQ.

**Claim 26 (New).** The polypeptide of claim 21 which when expressed and before maturation comprises a heterologous pro-region from a different protease.

**Claim 27 (New).** The polypeptide of claim 21 which when expressed and before maturation comprises a heterologous secretion signal-peptide which is cleaved from the polypeptide when the polypeptide is secreted.

**Claims 28 (New).** The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the heterologous secretion signal peptide comprises an amino acid sequence having a sequence identity of at least 70% with the amino acid sequence encoded by polynucleotides 1 – 81 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or SEQ ID NO: 44.

**Claim 29 (New).** An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as defined in claim 21.

**Claim 30 (New).** A recombinant expression vector or polynucleotide construct comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29.

**Claims 31 (New).** A recombinant host cell comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29.

**Claim 32 (New).** The recombinant host cell of claim 31 which is a *Bacillus* cell.

**Claim 33 (New).** A transgenic plant, or plant part, comprising a polynucleotide as defined in claim 29, or an expression vector or polynucleotide construct as defined in claim 30.

**Claim 34 (New).** A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising cultivating a recombinant host cell as defined in claim 31 to produce a supernatant comprising the polypeptide.

**Claim 35 (New).** An animal feed additive comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21; and

- (a) at least one fat-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (b) at least one water-soluble vitamin, and/or
- (c) at least one trace mineral.

Claim 36 (New). An animal feed composition having a crude protein content of 50 to 800 g/kg and comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21.

Claim 37 (New). A composition comprising at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 21, together with at least one other enzyme selected from amongst phytase; xylanase; galactanase; alpha-galactosidase; protease; phospholipase A1; phospholipase A2; lysophospholipase; phospholipase C; phospholipase D; and/or beta-glucanase.

Claim 38 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.

Claim 39 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.

Claim 40 (New). The polypeptide of claim 21, which polypeptide comprises at least three non-polar or uncharged polar amino acids within the last four amino acids of the C-terminus of the polypeptide, and which polypeptide:

- (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 28; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 41; SEQ ID NO: 43; or SEQ ID NO: 45; or
- (b) comprises an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the mature part of the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide in SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 31; SEQ ID NO: 32; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 40; or SEQ ID NO: 44.